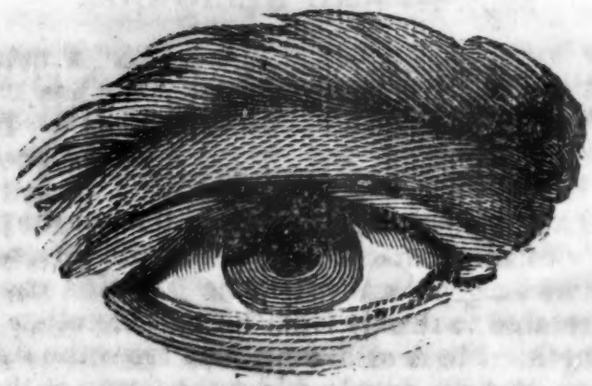

THE OBSERVER.

NEW-YORK:

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6, 1809.

THE LAY PREACHER.

(Continued from page 174.)

***It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*—JESUS.**

YES, ye sons of avarice, I think I hear that awful voice which is to pronounce sentence on all the human race, say unto you, "Depart." What then will become of all your good bargains! your cent per cent! your bank-stock! your sureties and deeds! Instead of rendering you respectable and happy, they will cover you with shame and confusion. Here the wiley son of the law will no longer find a flaw to creep out at; his cunning tricks will avail him nothing. Here no eloquence will mislead the Judge; no arresting judgment; no appeal to another court: your sentence echoes through heaven, earth, and hell, "*Depart! depart!*"

It seems as if mankind had entered into a league to pervert justice and to deceive themselves. Instead of making laws to defend the natural rights of man, and preserve a happy mediocrity, the whole ingenuity of the rich is employed in devising means how to make money generate money, by usury, banks, lotteries, &c. and thus enabling a few great men to tyrannize over the poor. Need I tell you, ye nice calculators of loss and gain, that a dollar is the same as a ticket for so much labour done to society. Now all the ways by which men become possessed of these tickets, without making a proper return in labour or ingenuity, are so many frauds and forgeries on society. And shall not God, who punishes the thief and the robber, punish the oppressor who robs by law, and deprives hundreds of the aged and infirm of that knowledge and wealth, which would make them bless their Creator in the decline of life. God will judge the world in righteousness; and "the oppressor shall not go free."

THE WANT OF PERSONAL BEAUTY A FREQUENT CAUSE OF VIRTUE AND HAPPINESS.

(Continued from our last.

It may, indeed, happen that a beautiful woman may be educated with uncommon vigilance, that she may possess a remarkably good understanding, and as good a disposition. In this case her beauty will be doubly valuable, not only from its real excellence when combined with a cultivated understanding, but from the difficulty of attending to the graces of the mind amidst the cares of the person, and the flattery of foolish admirers. It is certainly possible, that a beautiful woman may be as accomplished as a plain woman ; and I know, that, in this age, there are many instances of it ; but I am speaking of probabilities ; and I think it much more probable, that women, who are not remarkably beautiful, will be, in general, better furnished with those two necessary ingredients to domestic happiness, a corrected temper, and an understanding adorned by culture.

Let us suppose a case, for the sake of exemplyfying the subject, and let it be something like the following : A young lady, whose person is plain, cannot help observing how much she is neglected at public assemblies, and what universal attention is paid to beauty. She will naturally feel a desire to partake of the respect. She revolves in her mind the most likely methods of accomplishing her purpose. As to her features, it is in vain to think of altering them. She must draw her resources from her mind and her temper. She will study to collect ideas, in order to render her conversation agreeable. She will therefore read, and observe, and reflect, and remember. Her eager desire to gain esteem will stimulate her industry, and give steadiness to her application. With these she cannot fail to succeed. Her mind will be stored with knowledge, which will produce itself in conversation with all the graces of ease and elegance. The improvement of her mind will have a natural effect in the improvement of her temper ; for every part of polite learning tends to soften and humanize the disposition. But she will also pay particular attention to the regulation of her temper ; for she will justly argue, that envy and ill nature will add distortion and ugliness to a set of features originally not worse than plain or indifferent She will study to compensate her defects not only by rendering herelf intelligent and good tempered, but useful. She will, therefore, study the practical parts of domestic œconomy ; those parts of humble but valuable knowledge, with which a proud lady, with a fine face, would scorn to meddle, lest she should be defiled. Thus sensible, good tempered, and useful, her company would be sought by men of sense and character ; and, if any one of them should be disposed to marry, I have little doubt but that she would be his choice, in preference to a mere beauty, who has scarcely one excellent or useful quality to render her a good wife, mother, and mistress of a family.

Suppose our plain lady married, her gratitude will be powerfully excited in return for the preference given to her amidst so many others who are talked of, and toasted, and admired. All her attention will be bestowed in making the man happy who has made her happy in so flattering a manner. Her understanding has been enlightened, and her temper sweetened by her own exertions. She will, therefore, be an entertaining as well as tender and affectionate companion. She has been accustomed to solid pleasures, for her plain person secluded her

from vanity. She therefore seeks and finds comfort at home. She is not always wishing to frequent the places of public amusement, but thinks the day happily closed, if she can look back, and find no domestic duty omitted.

Suppose her a mother. As she has furnished herself with ideas, she will be able to impart them to her children. She will teach them to entertain a proper knowledge of the world, and not to lead them, by her example, to admire only its vanities. She will be able to educate her daughters completely, and to initiate and improve her sons. In the mean time, the fine lady, who has been taught to idolize her own face, and to doat on vanity, will neither be able nor willing to interest herself in such disagreeable matters as the care of her noisy children whom she almost detests, since they make her look old as they grow up, and are an impediment to her extravagance and dissipation. At the age of thirty or forty, whether of the two is the more amiable ? Who now takes notice of the plain lady's face or the handsome lady's beauty. The plain lady, in all probability, is esteemed, and the handsome lady pitied or despised. But this is not all ; for the one is happy and useful, the other burthensome and miserable.

Juvenal, in his celebrated satire on the vanity of human wishes, laments that the accomplishment of our wishes would often be the cause of our destruction, and that such are our prayers, that, if Heaven were always propitious, it would often be unkind. Who wishes not beauty in his children ? Yet beauty has been the bane of myriads, whom plainness, or even deformity, might have saved from ruin, and rendered useful, happy, and respectable.

I have thus attempted, in this paper, to console that very worthy part of the sex, who have not to boast the finest tincture of a skin, nor the most perfect symmetry of shape and features, and who are often not only neglected, but even ridiculed, by the unfeeling man of pleasure. It is surely a comfortable reflection, that, though Nature has treated their persons rather rudely, her apparent malignity may be turned to a benefit ; and that a very plain system of features may really be the cause of rendering them more engaging, and more pert manently happy, as well as better able to communicate happiness, than the most celebrated toast, whose mind is unembellished. She in, deed may shine a little while in the fashionable sphere, while she exhibits the trasitory gloss of novelty, but will soon drop her honours like the gaudy tulip, and be no more remembered.

[*The truth of the following extract from Dr. Young's treatise on inordinate pleasure, though calculated for Great Britain, may we think be felt by the voluptuaries of our own country.*

I grant, that in the boundless field of licentiousness, some bastard joys may rise, that look gay, more especially at a distance ; but they soon wither. No joys are always sweet and flourish long, but such as have self-approbation for their root, and the divine favour for their shelter. We are for rootless joys, joys beyond appetite ; which is the sole root of sensual delight. We are for joys, not of man's native growth, but forced up by luxurious art : dung'd by great expense ; and shone on, not by the divine favour, but a strong imagination, which gives them all their little taste ; and makes them apt, like other crude fruits, to surfeit and destroy. We are, in a word, for joys of our own creation, the seeds of which heaven never sowed in our hearts. But we may as well invade another prerogative of heaven,

and, with the tyrant of *Elis*, pretend to make thunder and lightning, as *real* joy. I say *real* joy, joy we may make, but not cheerfulness. Joy may subsist without thought; cheerfulness rises from it. Joy is from the pulse; cheerfulness from the heart. That may give a momentary flash of pleasure; this alone makes a happy man. And happy men there may be, who never laughed in their lives: and in a situation where reason calls for the reverse, there is not in nature so melancholy a thing as joy.

It is this intellectual cloud, which hangs, like a fog, over every gay resort of our *moral* invalids (though invisible to common eyes) which flings us not only into mistakes, but contradictions. How sick are we of yesterday! yet how fond of to-morrow, though devoted to the same cheat as the past! which flings us into contradictions not only in reason; but contradictions to sense. We cannot believe that fatigue is fatigue; let its cause be what it will. Too much recreation tires as much as too much business; yet one we swallow, are choaked by the other. The man of business has, at least, his seventh day's rest. Our fever for folly never intermits. Our week has no sabbath in it. So much harder is the master whom we serve, than that of better men; and yet, to our infamous honour be it spoken, we are better servants than they. How do we run, labour, expend; expose ourselves, hurt our families, resist unbounded eternal temptations to wisdom; offer up the rich sacrifice of conscience, and understanding; watch; watch late; and all but pray, for his service! quite jaded with protracted amusements we yawn over them. The dull drone of nominal diversion still humming on, when the short tune of enjoyment is over, lulls us quite asleep. Like the bear in the fable, we hug our darling to death. Instead of rejoicing in tribulation (of which few among us ever heard) we sorrow in delight: for, to speak the truth (though we would not have it divulged) we tread this eternal round of vanities, less for the pleasure it brings, than for the pain it suspends. It is a refuge, not a prize. Like criminals (as we are) we fly to it from our much-injured unforgiving foes, from orrselves; which chide and sting us when alone; when together, we support each others spirits; which is like sailors clinging to each other for safety, when the vessel is sinking. We fly to ourselves because we first fly from our Maker. Wretched flight! hell is nothing but an entire absence from him; and every partial departure has its proportion of it.

MAXIMS.

PRIDE.

Pride always indemnifies itself; and takes care to be no loser even when it renounces vanity. If we were not proud ourselves, we should not complain of the pride of others. Pride is equal in all men; and differs but in the means and manner of shewing itself. It seems as if nature, who has so wisely adapted the organs of our bodies to our happiness, had with the same view given us pride, to spare us the pain of knowing our imperfections. Pride is more concerned than benevolence in our remonstrances to persons guilty of faults; and we reprove them not so much with a desire to amend them, as to make them believe that we ourselves are free from such failings. Pride will not owe, and self-love will not pay. Our pride is encreased by what we retrench from our other faults. The same pride which

makes us condemn the faults we imagine ourselves exempt from, inclines us to despise the good qualities we are not possessed of. There is often more pride than goodness in our concern for the misfortunes of our enemies. We make them feel our superiority by shewing our compassion. Pride has its caprices as well as other passions: we are ashamed to own that we are jealous; yet value ourselves on having been so, and on being susceptible of it.

PRAISE.

The shame that arises from praise which we do not deserve, often makes us do things we should never have otherwise attempted. We seldom heartily praise any but those who admire us. We blame ourselves only to extort praise. We never love to praise without a view to self-interest. Praise is an artful, concealed, refined flattery; which pleases very differently the giver and receiver; the one takes it as the reward of his merit, the other gives it to shew his candour and discernment. We often use envenomed praise, which, by a side-blow, exposes the person we commend, such faults as we durst not any other way lay open. We seldom praise but to be praised. Few are so wise as to prefer useful reproof to treacherous praise. There are reproaches that praise; and praises that reproach. A refusal of praise is a desire to be praised twice. Ambition to merit praise fortifies our virtue. Praise bestowed on wit, valour, and beauty, contributes to their augmentation. That modesty which seems to decline praise, is only the desire of being praised more delicately.

AN ODE ON THE PROSPECT OF DEATH.

BY ROBERT BURNS.

Why am I loath to leave this earthly scene!
  Have I so found it full of pleasing charms!
Some drops of joy with draughts of ill between:
  Some gleams of sunshine 'mid renewing storms;
Is it departing pangs my soul alarms?
  Or death's unlovely, dreary, dark abode?
For guilt, for guilt, my terrors are in arms;
  I tremble to approach an angry God,
And justly smart beneath his sin-avenging rod.

Fain would I say, "Forgive my soul offence!"
  Fain would promise never more to disobey;
But, should my Author health again dispense,
  Again I might desert fair virtue's way;
Again in folly's path might go astray;
  Again exalt the brute and sink the man;
Then how should I for heavenly mercy pray,
  Who act so counter heavenly mercy's plan?
Who sin so oft have mourn'd yet to temptation ran?

O Thou, great governor of all below!
  If I may dare a lifted eye to Thee,
Thy nod can make the tempest cease to blow,
  Or still the tumult of the raging sea;
With that controling pow'r assist ev'n me,
  Those headlong furious passions to confine;
For all unfit I feel my powers to be,
  To rule their torrent in th' allowed line,
O, aid me with thy help, *Omnipotence Divine!*

RECORD OF THE PAST WEEK.

On Thursday afternoon arrived at this port, the dispatch ship Mentor, captain Ward, in the remarkably short passage of 24 days from L'Orient, which place she left on the 9th of July.

Mr. Maliby Gelston, is the bearer of Dispatches for Government, and proceeded to Washington yesterday morning

Captain Ward has obligingly favoured the editor of the Mercantile Advertiser with a file of Paris papers to the 4th of July. The dates from the French army in Germany to the 24th of June, and comprize the 22d bulletin, at which time the Emperor Napoleon had his head quarters at Vienna. The town of Raab capitulated on the 23d of June to General Lauriston, and the terms of the capitulated occupy nearly the whole of the last Bulletin.

We learn verbally, that no battle had taken place between the French and Austrian Grand Armies, since the 21st and 22d of May; but that both the Emperor of France and the Archduke Charles were reinforcing and concentrating their armies; and that a great battle was shortly expected to take place.

We further learn that the Emperor of Russia had sent three large armies to assist the Emperor Napoleon, (one of which was commanby the Prince Suwarroff (probably a relation of the late General Suwarrow of infamous memory) and that they were marching through Gallicia on their way to the French army. Prussia had not declared against France.

Mr Washington Morton had arrived in Paris with Dispatches from our Minister at the court of Saint James' for General Armstrong.

We are further informed, that two or three American vessels had recently arrived at Amsterdam; but we are ignorant whether any change has taken place in the decrees of France favourable to the interest of the United States.

Col. BURR had arrived at Stockholm, from England. *Mer. Adv.*

Letters received in this city from Paris, of so late a date as the 4th of July, mention that negociations for a commercial treaty between the United States and France had commenced between General Armstrong and M. Hautrive, who, during M. Champagny's absence at Vienna, fills the office of minister of exterior relations. An issue favorable to this country was expected with confidence.

The decree of September had been repealed; and colonial produce was permitted to go from Holland to France. This had caused a rise in the article of coffee from 10 to 25 per cent.

A letter, received at Boston on Sunday from Halifax, by the sloop Mayflower, 6 days from that place, contains the following information: "London dates to the 16th June have reached this place, they advise, that Bonaparte's army had evacuated the island of Inder Lobau, and returned again to the Vienna side of the Danube with severe loss; that the Austrian official account of the battle of the 21st and 22d May, as published at Stockholm, rates the loss of the French at 30,000; that the Archduke Charles had addressed a proclamation to the army in which he informs his troops that he shall divide their forces and by constantly harrassing the enemy, prevent him, at any time from attacking more than a small division; this is thought to be a wise and judicious plan, and more calculated to harrass his numerous adversaries, than trusting the whole to the chance of any one important action.

"There are various reports of battles subseqent to the 23d May. Prusia is said to be coming forward with an army of 40 or 50,000 men; the Duke of Brunswick is also said to have raised his standard in Saxony, and to be daily strengthening his party. Col. Schill is not dead, as was reported; but on the contrary has augmented his forces very considerably."

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman in Bordeaux, dated June 16, 1809.

"Yesterday the Commissary of Marine for this port, greatly alarmed us, by making a very injudicious communication to the Chamber of Commerce of the City, on the subject of American affairs. It appears, that the Minister of Marine instructed the Commissary to inform the Chamber of Commerce of Bordeaux of the late act of Congress interdicting trade with France and England; at the same time recommending to them to suspend, for the present, all operations with the United States. In conforming to the orders of his superior, the Commissary thought proper to annex comments of his own, of a very alarming nature, which were immediately communicated to the merchants on Exchange, and as the whole wore an official form, an immediate rupture between the two countries was considered as inevitable. The Commissary finding he had gone too far, sent for one of the members of the Chamber, through whose influence he prevailed on that Body to return his letter, promising to write another more consonant with the minister's views. Thinking it highly probable some of the American merchants may have communicated this alarm to the U. States by this ship, I have thought it my duty to state to you, sir, these facts, that in such case, its bad effects may be counteracted." *Nat. Intel.*

London, June 16. Orders have been issued by the Lords of the Admiralty for the immediate recal of the Lieutenant of the frigate, who impressed the American seamen at Cadiz.

SEVILLE, *May.* 29.

It is positive that the French army of Estremadura has left the banks of the Guardiana, and proceeded to cross the Tagus at Alcantara. This town was attacked on the 14th inst. by a division of from 10 to 12000 men, supposed to have been commanded by Marshal Victor in person. The town was defended only by one battalion of the Loyal Lusitanian Legion and the Regiment of Militia Idanha nova, with 6 pieces of ordnance, and fifty horse of the eleventh, the whole under the orders of Colonel Mayne of the said Loyal Legion, and making up rather less than 1800 men. This brave garrison, which had already opposed the enemy's progress in Brossas, where it had its out posts, succeeded in defending the bridge upwards of 6 hours and withdrawing to Rotmaninhal in the enemy's presence, and in spite of the great superiority of their cavalry. It is true, that it sustained some loss, but the whole of his artillery was saved. Major Grant of the same Legion entitled himself to the highest praise by his conduct in that action.

We have beaten Soult and his army entirely. His loss is 4000 men surrendered to us, with all his train of artillery. Soult was taken prisoner in a village of Galacia, a few hours after the surrender of his army. This is official. Is is also true, that the mock King Joseph has left Madrid and fled to the Monastery of Labrador in Aranjuez, and it is said had stripped that city of all its valuables.

Romana has beaten a division of Ney's army and taken Ferrol. The duke del Parque is in Salamanca with 15,000 men. Corunna alone remains in possession of the French.

Cancer. The following article is copied from an Edinburgh paper.

"While I wasat Smyrna, there was a girl afflicted with the Cancer in her lip, and the gum was affected. The European physicians consulted on the measures to be taken, and agreed that they saw no other method than to cut it out; and the girl had already submitted herself to the decision. By an accident of that nature which men cannot account for, on old Armenian came to them just in time to prevent the application of the knife.

"Do nothing," said the Armenian, "I will cure her," and when he had pledged himself strongly, the physicians consented.

"He procured a copper vessel, newly tinned in the inside (an essential concurrence) and having poured a certain quantity of olive oil into it, he made it boil over a small fire, sufficiently to keep it gently agitated, and so for three times in 24 hours. With this, the oil resolved itself into the consistency of an ointment, and by constantly rubbing the part affected, he cured her in 14 days.---Nothing else was done.

"The physicians suppose that the oil received its virtue from the tin, and that it was communicated by its long boiling over the fire."

A Russian peasant has lately made a watch of singular and curious workmanship. It is of the size of an egg. Within it are represented the sepulchre of our Lord, the stone closing it, and the guards standing nigh, The watch is a repeater. When the hour strikes, the stone is suddenly rolled from the mouth of the sepulchre, the guards fall on their faces, angels appear, the blessed women arrive, and that music is played which is usual to be executed in Russia on Paschal Eve.---*London Paper.*

Prisoners in Carthagena. The friends of those unfortunate men, who went into the service of Miranda, and are still in confinement in Carthagena, have now an opportunity of communicating with them by a vessel which will sail for that port direct from Philadelphia about the tenth of the present month. For particulars apply to E. Backus, No. 8 Pell-street, Bowery.

BILL OF MORTALITY,

from the 22d to the 29th July.

	Years.		Years
Eben. Davison	53	Richard Loyde	81
Fanny Lathan	37	Ann Butler	14
Susan Johnson	50	Patrick M'Braiety	2
Thomas Cavanagh	66	Isaac Raymond	51
Samuel Smith	72	George Boman	1
Mary Whitlock	18	Samuel B. Holmes	30
Ann Simpson	40	Mary Smith	1
Joseph Galloway	39	Wm. B. Telfair	2
Elizabeth Gillespy	3	Elizabeth Shaw	1
Thomas Man	55	Rhody Littlefield	25
James Laferty	24	Robert Estus	30
Rachel Powell	55	William Carmes	45
Cæsar Nelson	70	John Southard	55
Emma Simmons	50	Han. F. Norwood	22

Catharine Dean	3	Sarah Parker	34
Margaret Forboss	19	Catharine Crogery	1
Affey Forman	72	Mr. Shipley's ch.	2
Mrs. Moroney's ch.	3 m	Robert Jackson	5 m
Eliz. Lamb	4 d	Levan Richmond	4 m
L. Ruman	11 d	James Gamble	22 d
J. Bloomfield's ch.	18 d	Maria Williams	5 m
Thomas Blain	3 d	2 children 1 day each.	

MARRIED,

At Stonington, on the 30th ult. by the Rev. Mr. Miner, Mr. Jeremiah Shotwell, jun. merchant, of this city, to Miss Elizabeth Terrett, daughter of Wm. Terret, Esq. of Tonington.

At Bradford, Mass. the Hon. Nathaniel Thurston, one of the Essex Senators, to Miss Fletcher, his seventh wife.

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